

# CS3000: Algorithms & Data

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Lecture 16:

- Minimum Spanning Trees

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# Minimum Spanning Trees

# Network Design

- **Build a cheap, well connected network** (= graph)
- We are given
  - a set of **nodes**  $V = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$
  - a set of **possible edges**  $E \subseteq V \times V$
- Want to build a network to connect these locations
  - Every  $v_i, v_j$  must be **connected**
  - Must be as **cheap** as possible
- Many variants of network design
  - Recall the bus routes problem from HW2

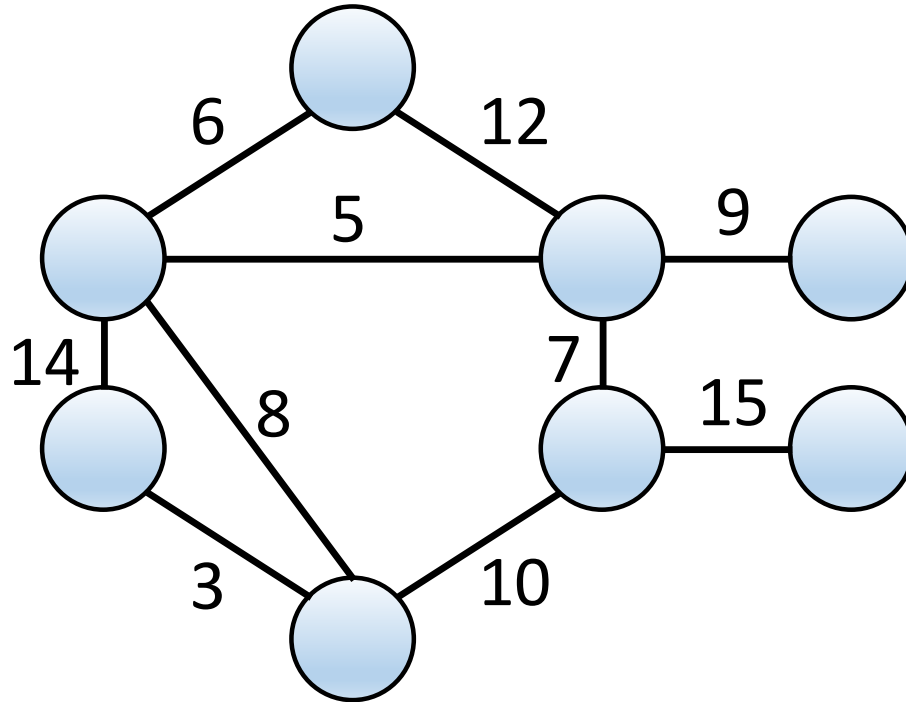
# Minimum Spanning Trees (MST)

- **Input:** a weighted graph  $G = (V, E, \{w_e\})$ 
  - Undirected, connected, weights may be negative
  - All edge weights are distinct (makes life simpler)
- **Output:** a spanning tree  $T$  of minimum cost
  - A **spanning tree** of  $G$  is a subset of  $T \subseteq E$  of the edges such that  $(V, T)$  forms a tree (*connected, acyclic*)
  - **Cost** of a spanning tree  $T$  is the sum of the edge weights

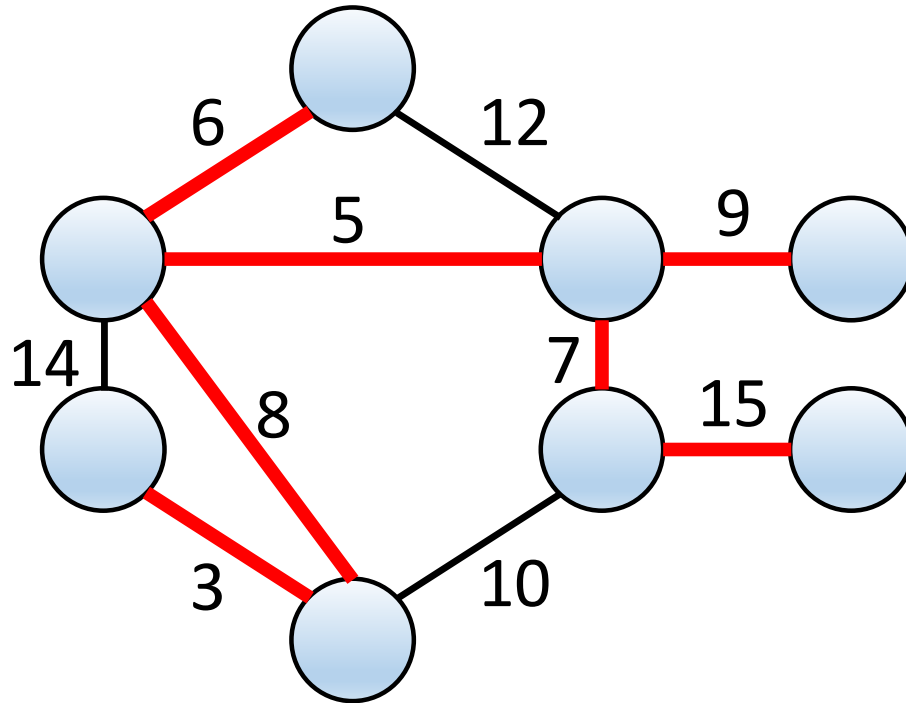
$$\text{cost}(T) = \sum_{e \in T} w(e)$$

$$\text{MST: } T^* \in \underset{\text{trees } T}{\text{argmin}} \text{cost}(T)$$

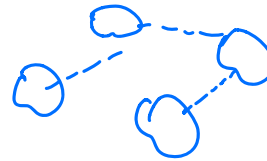
# Minimum Spanning Trees (MST)



# Minimum Spanning Trees (MST)



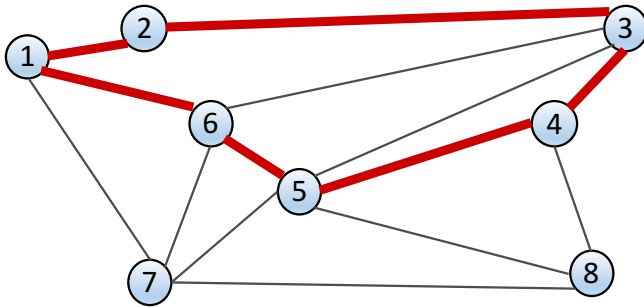
# MST Algorithms



- There are at least four reasonable MST algorithms
  - **Borůvka's Algorithm:** start with  $T = \emptyset$ , in each round add cheapest edge out of each connected component
  - **Prim's Algorithm:** start with some  $s$ , at each step add cheapest edge that grows the connected component
  - **Kruskal's Algorithm:** start with  $T = \emptyset$ , consider edges in ascending order, adding edges unless they create a cycle
  - **Reverse-Kruskal:** start with  $T = E$ , consider edges in descending order, deleting edges unless it disconnects

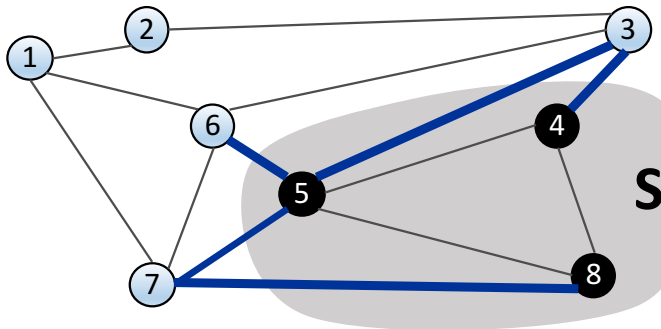
# Cycles and Cuts

- **Cycle:** a set of edges  $(v_1, v_2), (v_2, v_3), \dots, (v_k, v_1)$



Cycle C = (1,2),(2,3),(3,4),(4,5),(5,6),(6,1)

- **Cut:** a subset of nodes  $S$



$$\text{Cutset}(S) = \{ (u,v) \in E : \begin{matrix} u \in S \\ v \notin S \end{matrix} \}$$

"Edges cut by  $S$ "

Cut S = {4, 5, 8}

Cutset = (5,6), (5,7), (3,4), (3,5), (7,8)

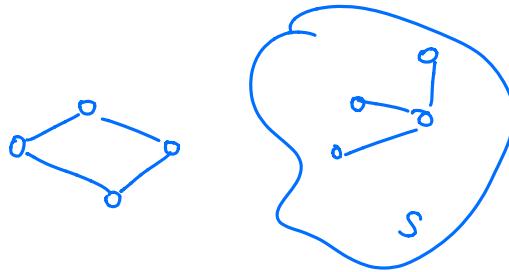


# Cycles and Cuts

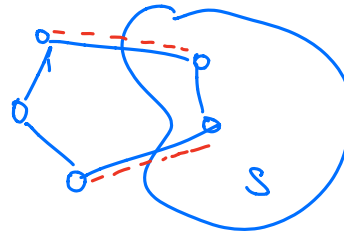
"Every time I leave  $S$ , I must come back."

- **Fact:** a cycle and a cutset intersect in an even number of edges

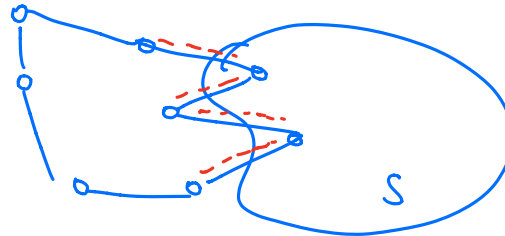
$$|C \cap C'| = 0$$



$$|C \cap C'| = 2$$



$$|C \cap C'| = 4$$



# Properties of MSTs

assumes that wts  
are distinct

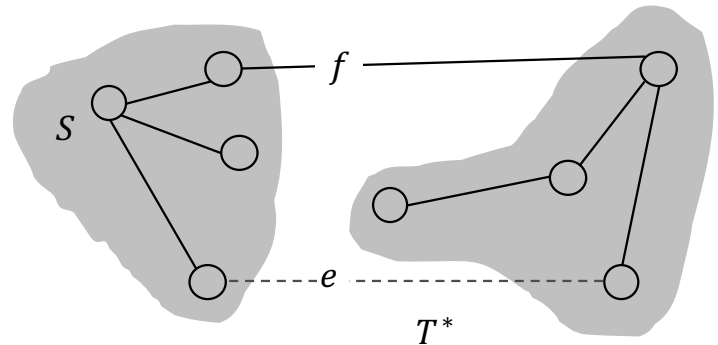
- **Cut Property:** Let  $S$  be a cut. Let  $e$  be the minimum weight edge cut by  $S$ . Then the MST  $T^*$  contains  $e$ 
  - We call such an  $e$  a **safe edge**
- **Cycle Property:** Let  $C$  be a cycle. Let  $f$  be the maximum weight edge in  $C$ . Then the MST  $T^*$  does not contain  ~~$f$~~ .
  - We call such an  ~~$f$~~  a **useless edge**

# Proof of Cut Property

- **Cut Property:** Let  $S$  be a cut. Let  $e$  be the minimum weight edge cut by  $S$ . Then the MST  $T^*$  contains  $e$

• Proof by Contradiction:

- Let  $T^*$  be an MST,  $e \notin T^*$
- There is some  $f \in T^*$  that is also in  $\text{Cutset}(S)$
- $w(f) > w(e)$  because  $e$  is a safe edge for cut  $S$   
 $\Rightarrow \text{cost}(T^* - \{f\} + \{e\}) < \text{cost}(T^*)$



# Proof of Cut Property

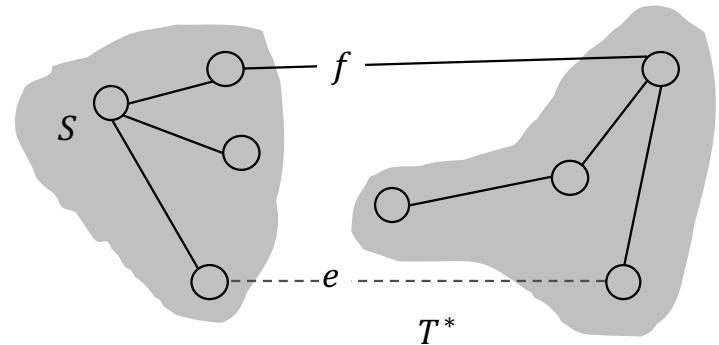
- **Cut Property:** Let  $S$  be a cut. Let  $e$  be the minimum weight edge cut by  $S$ . Then the MST  $T^*$  contains  $e$

- $T^* - \{f\} + \{e\}$  is a spanning tree

-  $T^* - \{f\}$  has two connected components,  $S$  and  $S^c$

-  $e$  bridges  $S$  and  $S^c$

- Then  $T^*$  is not an MST, contradiction.  $\square$



# Proof of Cycle Property

- **Cycle Property:** Let  $C$  be a cycle. Let  $f$  be the max weight edge in  $C$ . The MST  $T^*$  does not contain  $f$ .

• Proof by contradiction:

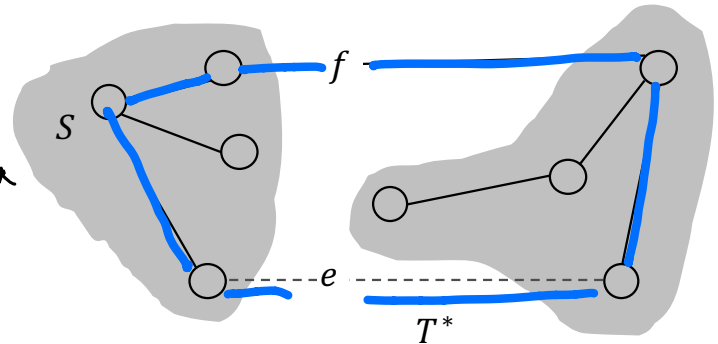
• Assume  $T^*$  is an MST,  $f \in T^*$

•  $T^* - \{f\}$  has two connected components  $S, S^c$

•  $C$  intersects  $\text{Cutset}(S)$  in an even # of edges.

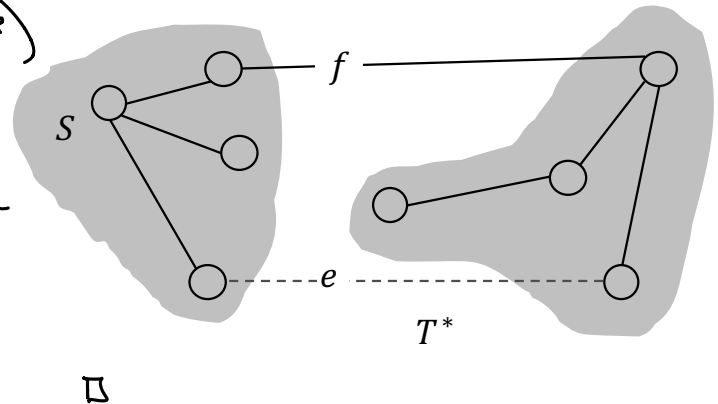
$\Rightarrow$  there is an  $e \in C$  and  $e \in \text{Cutset}$

$\Rightarrow w(e) < w(f)$



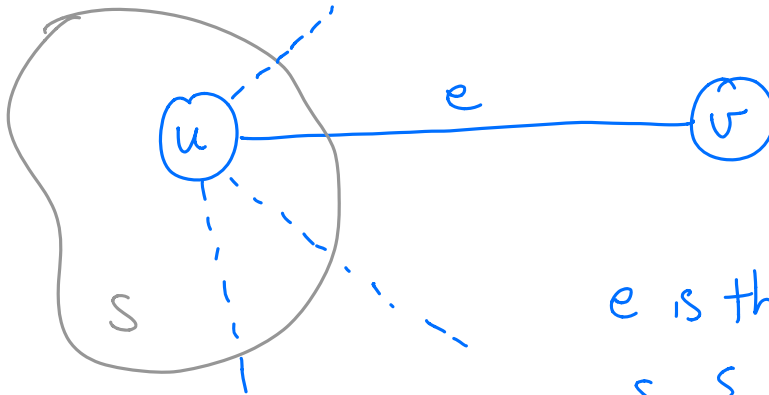
# Proof of Cycle Property

- **Cycle Property:** Let  $C$  be a cycle. Let  $f$  be the max weight edge in  $C$ . The MST  $T^*$  does not contain  $e$ .
- $\text{cost}(T^* - \{f\} + \{e\}) < \text{cost}(T^*)$
- $T^* - \{f\} + \{e\}$  is spanning tree
- But then  $T^*$  is not an MST, contradiction.



# Ask the Audience

- Assume  $G$  has distinct edge weights
- **True/False?** If  $e$  is the edge with the smallest weight, then  $e$  is always in the MST  $T^*$
- **True/False?** If  $e$  is the edge with the largest weight, then  $e$  is never in the MST  $T^*$



$e$  is the safe edge for  
 $S = \{u\}$

# Ask the Audience

- Assume  $G$  has distinct edge weights
- **True/False?** If  $e$  is the edge with the smallest weight, then  $e$  is always in the MST  $T^*$
- **True/False?** If  $e$  is the edge with the largest weight, then  $e$  is never in the MST  $T^*$

what if there is only one edge?



# The “Only” MST Algorithm

- **GenericMST:**

- Let  $T = \emptyset$
- Repeat until  $T$  is connected:
  - Find one or more safe edges not in  $T$
  - Add safe edges to  $T$

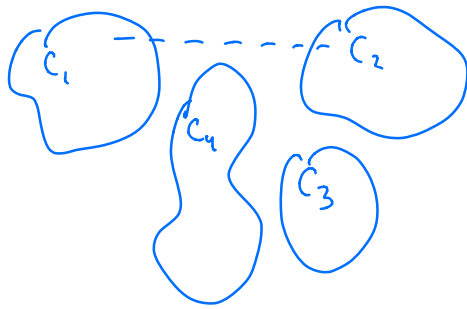
- **Theorem:** **GenericMST** outputs an MST

Proof: ① We only add safe edges

② If  $T$  not connected, then there exists a safe edge



Suppose  $T$  is not connected



There must be edges btw each component or else  $E$  is not connected

$\Rightarrow$  there is some edge in the cut  $C_1$

$\Rightarrow$  there is a safe edge in the cut  $C_1$

# Borůvka's Algorithm

- **Borůvka:**

- Let  $T = \emptyset$
- Repeat until  $T$  is connected:
  - Let  $C_1, \dots, C_k$  be the connected components of  $(V, T)$
  - Let  $e_1, \dots, e_k$  be the safe edge for the cuts  $C_1, \dots, C_k$
  - Add  $e_1, \dots, e_k$  to  $T$

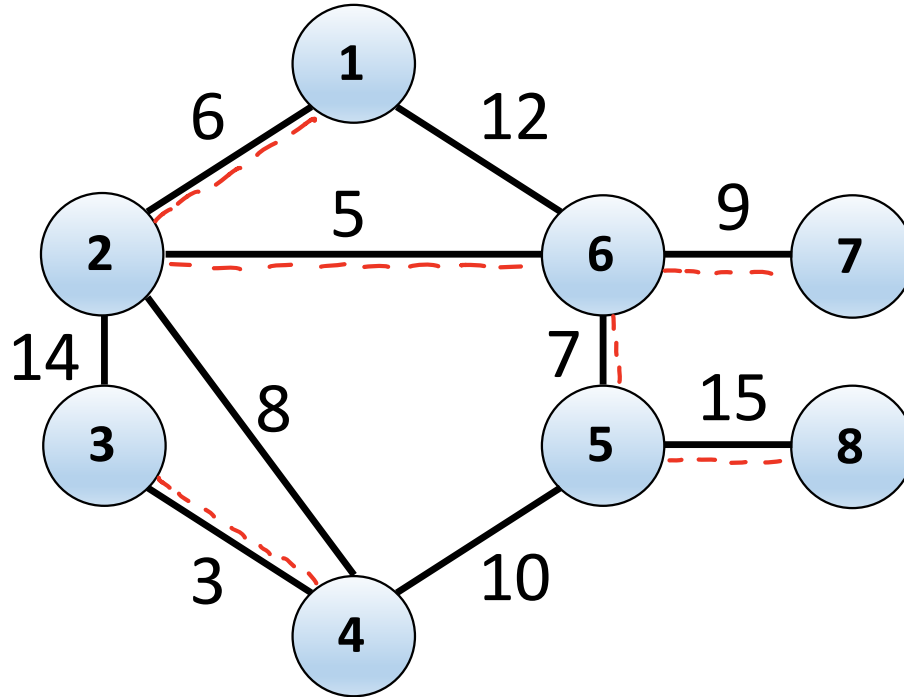
*might contain duplicates*

- **Correctness:** every edge we add is safe

# Borůvka's Algorithm

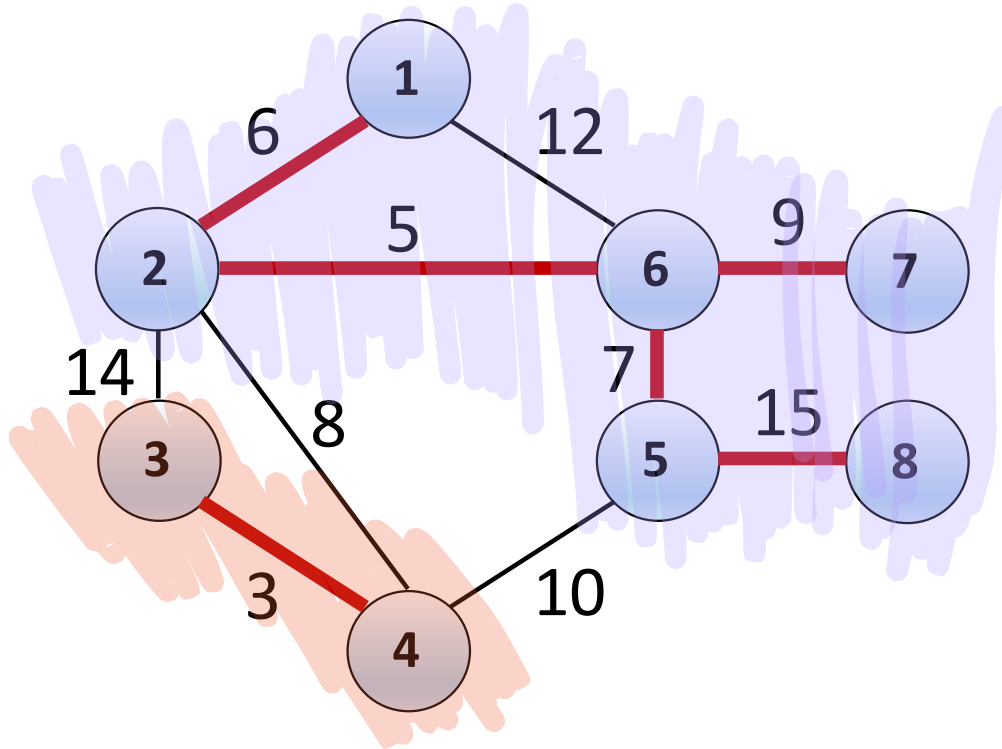
Initially  $T = \emptyset$

Label Connected Components  
of the graph  $(V, T)$



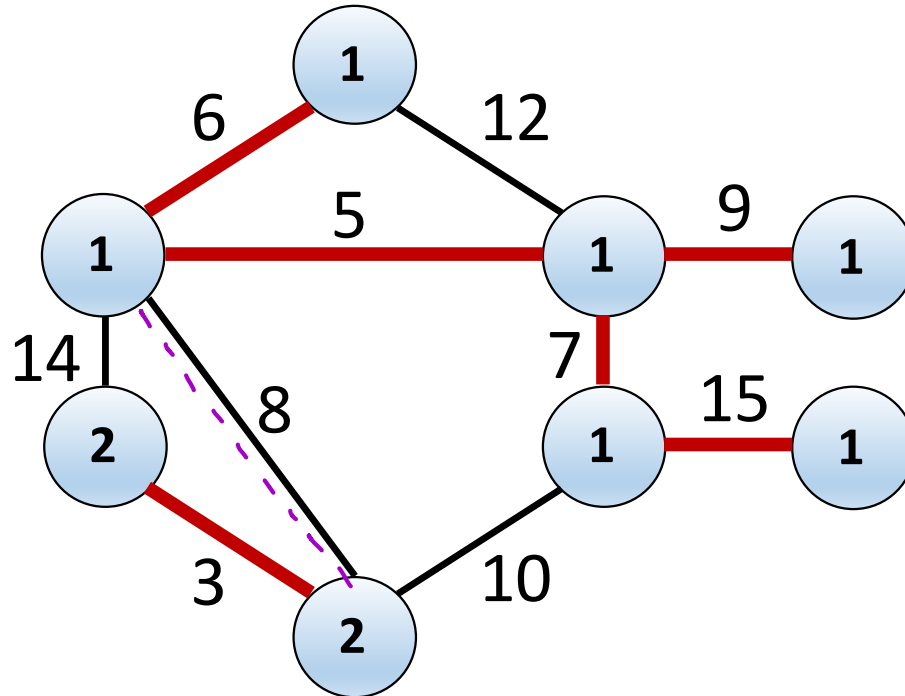
# Borůvka's Algorithm

Add Safe Edges



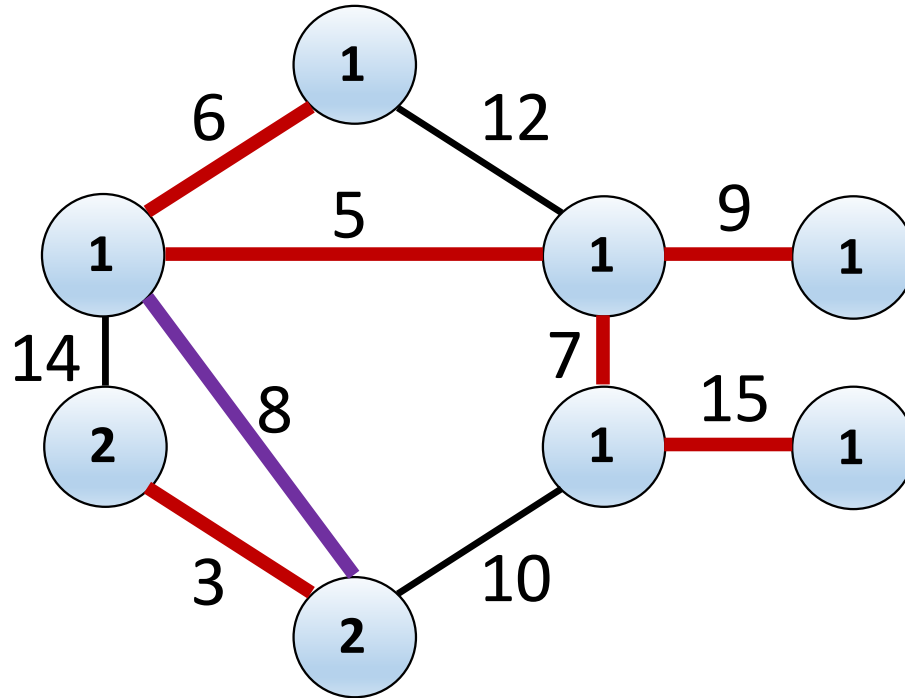
# Borůvka's Algorithm

Label Connected Components



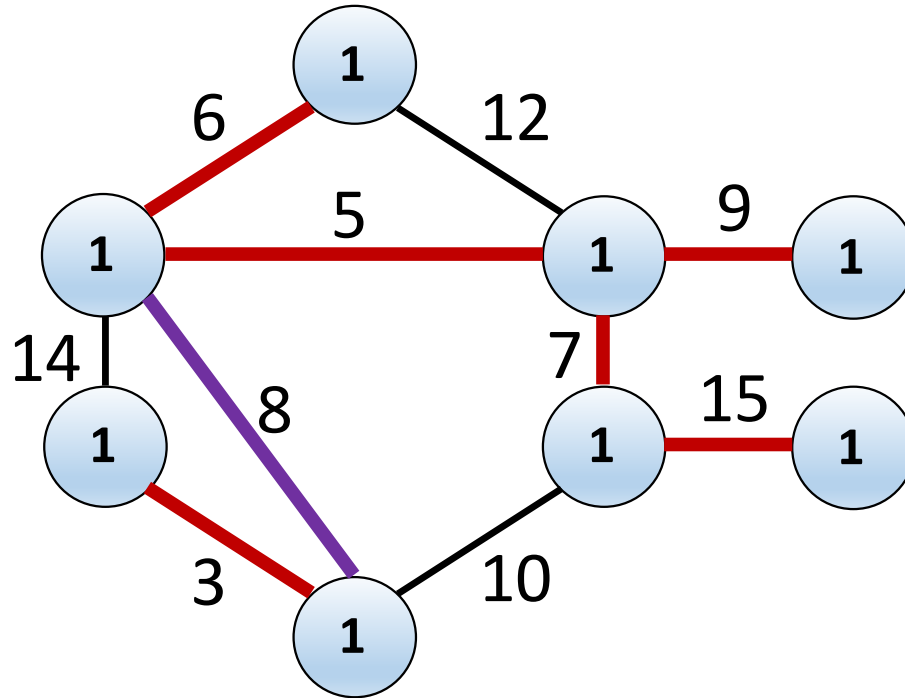
# Borůvka's Algorithm

Add Safe Edges



# Borůvka's Algorithm

Done!





# Borůvka's Algorithm (Running Time)

- **Borůvka**

- Let  $T = \emptyset$
- Repeat until  $T$  is connected:
  - Let  $C_1, \dots, C_k$  be the connected components of  $(V, T)$
  - Let  $e_1, \dots, e_k$  be the safe edge for the cuts  $C_1, \dots, C_m$
  - Add  $e_1, \dots, e_k$  to  $T$

- Running time

- How long to find safe edges?
- How many times through the main loop?

# Borůvka's Algorithm (Running Time)

**FindSafeEdges (G, T) :**

```
find connected components  $C_1, \dots, C_k$ 
let  $L[v]$  be the component of node  $v$ 
Let  $S[i]$  be the safe edge of  $C_i$ 
for each edge  $(u, v)$  in  $E$ :
    If  $L[u] \neq L[v]$ :
        If  $w(u, v) < w(S[L[u]])$ :
             $S[L[u]] = (u, v)$ 
        If  $w(u, v) < w(S[L[v]])$ :
             $S[L[v]] = (u, v)$ 
Return  $\{S[1], \dots, S[k]\}$  (Remove duplicates)
```

$O(m)$  time using BFS

$O(1)$  per edge

$O(m)$  total

Running Time to find safe edges is  $O(m)$

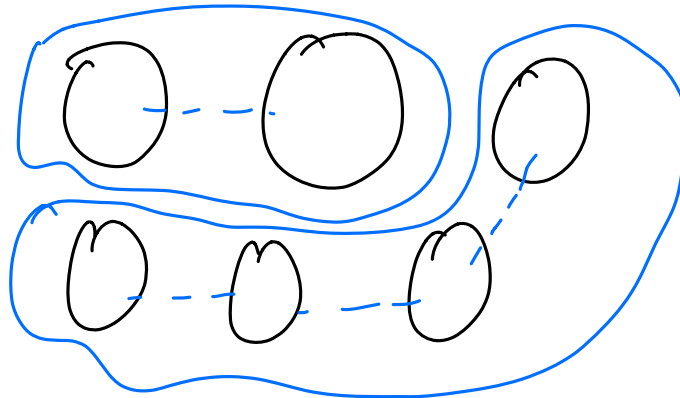
# Borůvka's Algorithm (Running Time)

- **Claim:** every iteration of the main loop halves the number of connected components.

- $\Rightarrow$  # of iterations is  $O(\log n)$

- "Proof" After iteration  $i$ , we have components  $C_1 \dots C_k$

Iteration  $i+1$ ,  
each component  
contains at least  
two previous  
components



$$\begin{aligned} & (\# \text{ comp's after } i+1) \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2} (\# \text{ of comp's after } i) \end{aligned}$$

# Borůvka's Algorithm (Running Time)

- **Borůvka**

- Let  $T = \emptyset$
- Repeat until  $T$  is connected:
  - Let  $C_1, \dots, C_k$  be the connected components of  $(V, T)$
  - Let  $e_1, \dots, e_k$  be the safe edge for the cuts  $C_1, \dots, C_m$
  - Add  $e_1, \dots, e_k$  to  $T$

- Running Time:

- How long to find safe edges?  $O(m)$
- How many times through the main loop?  $O(\log n)$

Total time:  $O(m \log n)$

# Prim's Algorithm

- **Prim Informal**

- Let  $T = \emptyset$
- Let  $s$  be some arbitrary node and  $S = \{s\}$
- Repeat until  $S = V$ 
  - Find the cheapest edge  $e = (u, v)$  cut by  $S$ . Add  $e$  to  $T$  and add  $v$  to  $S$

- **Correctness:** every edge we add is safe



# Prim's Algorithm

```
Prim(G=(V,E))
```

```
  let Q be a priority queue storing V
```

```
    value[v]  $\leftarrow \infty$ , last[v]  $\leftarrow \perp$ 
```

```
    value[s]  $\leftarrow 0$  for some arbitrary s
```

```
  while (Q  $\neq \emptyset$ ):
```

```
    u  $\leftarrow$  ExtractMin(Q)
```

```
    for each edge (u,v) in E:
```

```
      if v  $\in$  Q and w(u,v) < value[v]:
```

```
        DecreaseKey(v, w(u,v))
```

```
        last[v]  $\leftarrow$  u
```

```
T = {(1, last[1]), ..., (n, last[n])} (excluding s)
```

```
return T
```

# Kruskal's Algorithm

- **Kruskal's Informal**

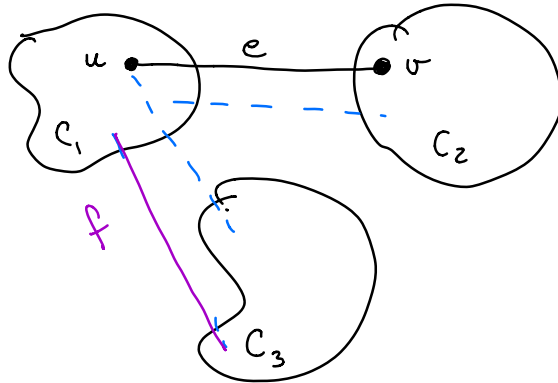
- Let  $T = \emptyset$
- For each edge  $e$  in ascending order of weight:
  - If adding  $e$  would decrease the number of connected components add  $e$  to  $T$

- **Correctness:** every edge we add is safe



Claim: Every edge added by Kruskal is a safe edge.

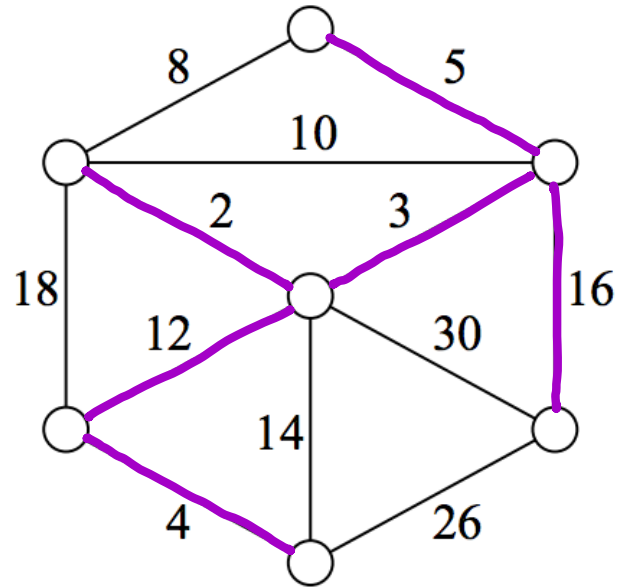
Proof: Consider some edge  $e$ , added by Kruskal, when we considered  $e$ , the  $T$  looked like



There are other edges leaving the cut  $C_1$ , suppose  $e$  were not the minimum. If  $w(f) < w(e)$  then we already considered  $f$ . Why didn't we add  $f$ ? At the time we considered  $f$ , its endpoints were also in two different components. But then we would have added  $f$ !

So there is no  $f \in \text{Cut}(C_1)$  st.  $w(f) < w(e)$

# Kruskal's Algorithm



# Implementing Kruskal's Algorithm

- **Union-Find**: group items into components so that we can efficiently perform two operations:
  - **Find(u)**: lookup which component contains u
  - **Union(u,v)**: merge connected components of u,v

- Can implement **Union-Find** so that

- Find takes  $O(1)$  time

- Any  $k$  Union operations takes  $O(k \log k)$  time

] Amortized running time

- Naïve Implementation is an array

Find takes  $O(1)$  time

Union can take  $O(n)$  time

# Kruskal's Algorithm (Running Time)

- **Kruskal's Informal**

- Let  $T = \emptyset$
- For each edge  $e$  in ascending order of weight:
  - If adding  $e$  would decrease the number of connected components add  $e$  to  $T$

- Time to sort:  $O(m \log m)$

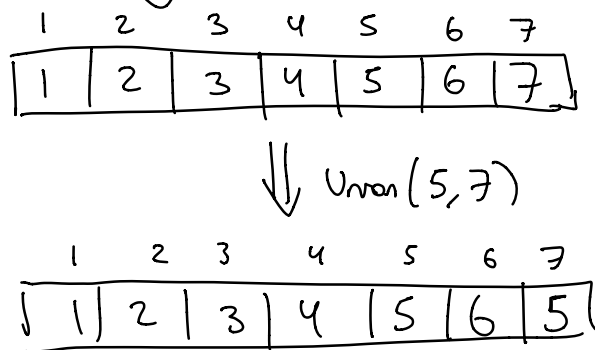
- Time to test edges:  $2m$  find operations  $\rightarrow O(m)$  time

- Time to add edges:  $n-1$  union operations  $\rightarrow O(n \log n)$  time

Total time is  $O(m \log m)$

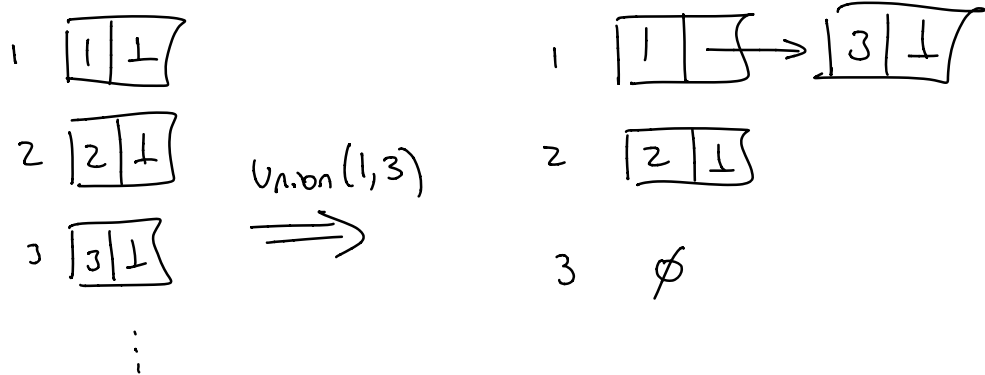
# Implementing Union Find

① Maintain an array with the component of each item



Find =  $O(1)$ , Union =  $O(n)$

② For every component, maintain a linked list of the items in that component



Union( $i, j$ ) takes time = to size of component  $j$

- ③ Keep the size of each component, merge the smaller into the bigger.

Claim:  $k$  unions takes  $O(k \log k)$  time

Pf.

① After  $k$  unions only  $O(k)$  items have changed component at all

② The largest component has size  $O(k)$

③ Every time an item changes component, the size of its component doubles.

$\Rightarrow$  no item changed component more than  $O(\log k)$  times

$\therefore$  Total changes of component is  $O(k \log k)$

# Comparison

- **Boruvka's Algorithm:**

- Only algorithm worth implementing
- Low overhead, can be easily parallelized
- Each iteration takes  $O(m)$ , very few iterations in practice

- **Prim's/Kruskal's Algorithms:**

- Reveal useful structure of MSTs
- Running time dominated by a single sort